

Un35Ch  
3. P65  
v1/3  
Copy 1

# To Protect and Serve ... the kids.

News for the Child Abuse Investigator

## It's still not too late! Child Abuse Investigation training continues.

To Protect and Serve ... the Kids is a monthly publication by the Children's Law Project (CLP).

### Upcoming Training

#### CHILD ABUSE: INVESTIGATION & COURT PREPARATION

The CLP is sponsoring comprehensive training on the investigation of child abuse. The practical steps involved in investigations will be covered, with an emphasis on evidence collection. The Workshop is divided into three parts:

**Part I:** (Days 1 & 2) focuses on identification and reconstruction of physical abuse injuries, including pommeling injuries, object injuries, falls, burns, SIDS, and shaken baby syndrome.

**Part II:** (Days 3 & 4) addresses sexual abuse with an emphasis on incest investigations. Topic areas include medical evidence, interviewing child victims, corroboration of the child's statement, interrogation of suspects, and interviewing other family members and potential witnesses.

**Part III:** (Day 5) covers preparation for family court and criminal proceedings including identification of witnesses, evidentiary requirements, and case presentation.

You may register for the entire course or for individual parts. Since each part covers a specific topic, you do not need to take the parts in any particular order or all at one location for that matter. We have offered lots of choices so that you can work around your busy schedule. (Each day qualifies for 6 hours of Law Enforcement Officer recertification credits.)

Registration fees are as follows:

- \$100 Complete 5 day course
- \$50 Part I
- \$50 Part II
- \$25 Part III

Call the CLP at (803)777-1646 for more information and to register.

#### Remaining Dates and Locations:

Greenville, SC  
Part III April 23

Conway, SC  
Part II April 10-11  
Part III May 9

Beaufort, SC  
Part II April 21-22  
Part III May 16

Columbia, SC  
Part I April 7-8  
Part II April 24-25  
Part III May 23

#### COMMENTS FROM RECENT ATTENDEES OF THE WORKSHOP:

"Some of the best training I have ever had. Super job of presenting material that was relevant."

"A great presenter; very informative. Get him back!"

"Excellent presentation, very interesting and relevant."

"Wish the seminar was longer so we could cover more. Excellent instructor."

### Did you know?

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics:

- \* Convicted rape and sexual assault offenders serving time in State prisons report that two-thirds of their victims were under the age of 18, and 58% of those -- or nearly 4 in 10 imprisoned sex offenders -- said their victims were aged 12 or younger.
- \* In 90% of the rapes of children less than 12 years old, the child knew the offender, according to police-recorded incident data.
- \* Among victims 18 to 29 years old, two-thirds had a prior relationship with the rapist.

\* Four datasets (the FBI's UCR arrests, State felony court convictions, prison admissions, and the National Crime Victimization Survey) all point to a sex offender who is older than other violent offenders, generally in his early 30's, and more likely to be white than other violent offenders.

#### THE MESSAGE:

We need to get past the old stereotypes surrounding sexual abuse and educate our children and the public that protecting from "stranger danger" is not enough.

## Rohypnol is more than "the date rape drug."

#### INTRODUCTION

Within the past year media attention has focused on frightening stories of women being drugged and sexually assaulted. The drug that received the most attention was flunitrazepam, more commonly known by its trade-name, Rohypnol. Flunitrazepam is one of a widely used class of prescription medications called benzodiazepines - the most commonly known one being diazepam (Valium).

Rohypnol is manufactured by F. Hoffman-La Roche Ltd. in Switzerland and other countries. It is not manufactured or marketed in the United States. In the countries where its use is approved, it is prescribed primarily to treat sleep disorders. Rohypnol is, however, being illegally diverted into the United States by drug traffickers.

#### HOW IS THE DRUG BEING ABUSED?

Rohypnol is being used by adolescents and young adults, as well as polydrug abusers. There also have been reports that Rohypnol has been put in women's drinks as a prelude to rape.

The primary sources of the drug into the United States seem to be

from Columbia and Mexico and the states having the most significant problems with Rohypnol being smuggled in are logically the southern states from Florida to California. Since those states are some of the most popular locations for spring break, the drug has quickly made its way to college campuses, bars, parties and even high schools and middle schools across the United States. [In fact, an article put out by the DEA indicates that in Miami, "the largest and fastest growing group of Rohypnol users are high school students who take the drug with alcohol or use it after cocaine ingestion."]<sup>1</sup> The DEA reports that two "common misperceptions about flunitrazepam may explain the drug's popularity with young people: first, many erroneously believe that the drug is unadulterated - and therefore "safe" - because it comes in presealed bubble packs; second, many mistakingly think its use cannot be detected by urinalysis testing."<sup>2</sup> South Carolina is not immune to the problem; Rohypnol was found at Clemson last year.

Polysubstance abusers, particularly cocaine, crack and heroine users also abuse Rohypnol. It enhances the high produced by low-quality heroine. It is also "touted as an effective 'parachute' or remedy for the depression that follows a stimulant high."<sup>3</sup>

#### ABUSE PATTERNS WHERE YOU MAY SEE IT

- \* Recreational use (as an intoxicant) especially by adolescents and young adults
- \* By heroine users as an enhancer for low-quality heroine
- \* In combination with cocaine or crack to moderate the effects of a binge
- \* Crime victims who report dizziness, extreme drowsiness, or other sudden unexplained symptoms or who have difficulty remembering the details of their assault

#### HOW TO IDENTIFY ROHYPNOL

Rohypnol tablets are white and contain the name "Roche" and an encircled 1 or 2 on one side. A single or cross score appears on the other side. The tablets are often illicitly sold in their original bubble-wrap pharmaceutical packaging, and the street price of a single tablet averages

less than \$5.<sup>4</sup> Common street names for Rohypnol include: *circles, rib, roach-2, roofies, roopies, rope, ruffies, R-2, roaches, Roche, la rocha, and the forget pill*. In some areas, it is associated with gangs, and it is becoming known as a club drug.

As of March 5, 1996, the U.S. Customs Service announced a ban on the importation of Rohypnol into the United States. Thus, even individuals who have a prescription for Rohypnol cannot bring it into this country. In October 1996, President Clinton signed into law the "Drug-Induced Rape Prevention and Punishment Act of 1996." This federal legislation provides severe sentences and fines for anyone convicted of the possession of any controlled substance with the intent to administer such substance to facilitate a crime of violence, including sexual assault.

As law enforcement and the Department of Social Services are investigating cases they should look for evidence of the drug's use against victims and by recreational and polysubstance abusers.

#### WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS?

What are the physical effects of Rohypnol? Someone who has been drugged will appear inebriated (or if they have had alcohol, they will seem disproportionately inebriated). They may have trouble staying awake, trouble with motor coordination, impaired judgement, disinhibition, dizziness, and confusion. If an individual appears intoxicated, but there is no alcohol smell on his/her breath or (s)he registers a low blood alcohol level, a special urine test can detect the presence of flunitrazepam in the system.<sup>5</sup>

One of the more alarming side effects from the misuse of Rohypnol is impaired memory. A person who has been sexually assaulted therefore may not remember the details of what happened while under the drug's influence. Generally, Rohypnol's effects begin within 20-30 minutes, peaking within two hours and lasting up to eight hours or more. All of these side effects are magnified, however, when Rohypnol is mixed with alcohol or other drugs. Mixed with alcohol or other drugs, Rohypnol can be lethal.

#### OTHER THREATS

By no means is Rohypnol the only drug used by criminals to sedate their victims. For perhaps centuries, criminals have used alcohol. Other

drugs include Valium, barbiturates, opiates (such as codeine), chloral hydrate, LSD and "Mickey Finn". And new on the scene is Gamma Hydroxy butyrate (GHB), a central nervous system depressant. GHB is a chemical that has been promoted as a steroid alternative for body builders and other uses for several years. It has become popular for recreational use because of its intoxicating effects. Reported symptoms include vomiting, dizziness, tremors, seizure, and even some deaths have been linked to the consumption of GHB products.

Likewise, rape is not the only crime associated with Rohypnol or other sedating drugs. Florida has experienced trouble with young people using the drug and then attempting to drive. A new Florida law authorizes the screening for flunitrazepam if a driver seems impaired but has a low blood alcohol level. There have also been reports of victims being robbed after having drunk a drink laced with Rohypnol. One can only imagine the horrible possibilities with Rohypnol and other similar drugs. Children would be easy victims of this drug - both by it being given to them or by being under the care of an individual who is abusing Rohypnol.

#### REDUCING THE RISKS

F. Hoffman-La Roche Ltd. and the federal government are both investing money into education programs for law enforcement, educators, rape crisis centers, etc. The South Carolina Legislature is also considering a law similar to the federal law entitled the "Drug-Induced Crime Prevention and Punishment Act of 1997."<sup>6</sup> Law enforcement, child protective services, and guardians ad litem should be aware of the drug as it is used against unsuspecting victims, by drug addicts, and young recreational users.<sup>7</sup>

## We make house calls!

Need an in-service training? The CLP is available to do training on a variety of subjects related to child abuse and neglect cases in both family court and general sessions. Please call (803) 777-1646 for more information.

**The Children's Law Project**  
University of South Carolina  
Carolina Plaza, SC 29208  
(803)777-1646

<sup>1</sup>DEA Highlights 1995  
<http://www.usdoj.gov/dca/pubs/rohypnol/rohypnol.htm>

<sup>2</sup> id.

<sup>3</sup>DEA Highlights 1995  
<http://www.usdoj.gov/dca/pubs/rohypnol/rohypnol.htm>

<sup>4</sup>Information provided as an educational service by Roche Laboratories

<sup>5</sup>Urine samples can be sent to SLED and screened for the presence of Rohypnol and its byproducts. SLED needs to be alerted that Rohypnol is suspected.

<sup>6</sup>Bill Number: 47  
Introducing Body: Senate  
All Sponsors: Holland and Gieso  
Current Committee: Judiciary Committee 11 SJ

<sup>7</sup>A special thank you to the Pickens County Rape Crisis Council for sponsoring the recent seminar on Rohypnol.